

## **Victoria Responses**

### **April 27, 2005**

### **Victoria Elementary School**

#### **Resident #1:**

##### **a) Are there any limitations to the Saturday home improvement permit program?**

There are limitations to the Saturday permit program. The program, which runs only during the four Saturdays in May, is for residential locations only and small jobs that are under 500 square feet. If you have any further questions please call the Planning Department Permit office at (951) 826-5361.

##### **b) What can be done about all the roaming animals throughout the city?**

Roaming animals should be reported to the City's non-emergency 311 call center at (951) 826-5311, or residents may report such issues directly to the County Department of Animal Services at (951) 358-7387.

#### **Resident #2:**

##### **a) Concerned that all the arteries cut through to the freeway (i.e. Central Avenue, Overlook, etc.) because it makes it difficult for residents to get out during rush hour. When is Central going to be cut through to Alessandro? When is Overlook going to cut through? Local traffic is kept waiting for Moreno Valley pass-through traffic. The Master Plan years ago called for Central to cut through, and Overlook to cut through. When will Central be put through?**

a) The Central Avenue connection between Alessandro and Chicago was removed from the City's General Plan in the mid 1990s. During the recent update of the General Plan, the City Council decided not to place the Central Avenue connection back on the General Plan. Therefore, the City does not intend to build that connection.

The Overlook Parkway connection is on the City's General Plan and the City Council has requested that a Specific Plan be prepared to determine how Overlook Parkway would be connected to the 91 Freeway before that connection is built. Work on the Specific Plan will begin shortly. In addition, the City is depending on private development to construct Overlook Parkway up to the Arroyo. Several years ago the City formed an assessment district to fund the Arroyo crossing only. If you have further questions you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

##### **b) Concerned about Alessandro becoming a six-lane road.**

Alessandro Boulevard, from the intersection of Trautwein Road to the intersection of Chicago Avenue/Arlington Avenue, now carries over 45,000 cars a day and it is projected to carry over 70,000 cars per day by 2025. The current traffic volume justifies a six-lane roadway. The City has proposed a plan to re-stripe the roadway to 6-lanes by narrowing the median. This modification is scheduled for early 2006. If you have further questions you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

**Resident #3:**

- a) **Traffic speeds down Central and Alessandro. What can be done to slow down traffic? During non-rush hours people speed up Central Avenue. The enforcement of people speeding up the hill is not as aggressive. There is some visual obstruction near Lutheran church.**

The Traffic Division of the Riverside Police Department will utilize the "Speed Board" to slow traffic down, and assign motor officers to work radar at this location. Traffic can only be slowed through enforcement of the speed limit. We will request the police department to provide speed enforcement on Central. Motor officers work Alessandro / Central / Arlington on a regular basis. Since Mayor's Night Out, they have been working the area around Victoria Elementary, with very few citations issued. However, Arlington / Central is a different story with 28 citations issued over the past two work weeks. Police will continue regular enforcement efforts and also conducted team enforcement efforts during the week of May 15-19 in this area. If you have any further questions you may call Riverside Police Department Motor Sergeant Duane Beckman at (951) 826-5237

In regards to the sight obstruction a field review was conducted by staff and it was determined that there was an unobstructed sight distance of over 400 feet, which exceeds the required distance for the speed limit on Central Avenue. If you have further questions you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

- b) **Saw Cushman garbage drivers in Canyon Crest speeding. What can be done to slow them down?**

Scooter drivers are expected to follow City safety and operating procedures and have been reminded that they are subject to all Laws and Regulations in the California Motor Vehicle Code, including Speed Limits. Further, the scooters are equipped with governors to restrict the speed of the vehicles. Scooters will be inspected to ensure the governors are operating properly. If you have further questions or concerns, or see such speeding, you may call Public Works Field Operations Manager Danilo Batson at (951) 351-6127.

**Resident #4:**

**Is street resurfacing done by neighborhood, or randomly? Street hasn't been paved in memory. Is it cheaper to pave before it gets too torn up?**

The City is divided into three areas with respect to rehabilitation of minor streets, with each area receiving approximately 1/3 of the total annual budget available for this type of work (\$3 million total budget). Every year, the minor streets in each area are surveyed and the worst 25 to 30 streets are selected for rehabilitation. If you have further questions, you may call Principal Engineer Philip Hannawi at (951) 826-5706.

**Resident #5:**

**a) What can be done to control the traffic on Central Avenue and Alessandro Avenue?**

The Traffic Division of the police department will use the same enforcement tactics listed earlier. Field Operations will assign an officer, equipped with a radar gun, to work this location when he/she is not handling radio calls. The Traffic Division has assigned motor officers to this list location. If you have further questions you may contact Riverside Police Lt. Ken Carpenter at (951) 351-6249.

**b) Can traffic signs be inserted at Gloucester Way and Alessandro, and Royal Hill and Alessandro, to slow traffic down?**

Traffic signs cannot slow traffic down. We will request the police department to provide speed enforcement on Central. If you have further questions you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

Two motor officers have worked this area for the past two weeks. They have written 20 citations for speeding violations. They will continue to conduct enforcement activity at this location. The Traffic Division has assigned motor officers to this list location. They will continue to conduct enforcement action as time permits. If you have further questions you may contact Riverside Police Lt. Ken Carpenter at (951) 351-6249.

**Resident #6:**

**Has a Shamel ash tree that is causing a lot of damage. What is the procedure for removing the tree?**

The procedure for tree removal is to contact the Parks Division at (951) 351-6126. The Parks Division will complete an inspection request and the City's Urban Forester or Tree Inspector will investigate within five (5) working days. Once the inspection is completed, the Urban Forester will contact the resident.

Staff investigated this resident's concern regarding a large Shamel ash tree that she said is causing damage to her driveway. The resident was contacted April 30 with staff's findings. The tree is typical of many of the Shamel ash trees throughout the community; the damage is not significant enough to warrant removal at the City's expense. The sidewalk adjacent to the tree has already been replaced. However, if the resident would like to split the cost of removal with the City, removal could be expedited. For more information, contact Parks Division at (951) 351-6126 Principal Park Planner Bob Johnson at (951) 826-2018.

**Resident #7:**

**a) What is the status of the Victoria Bridge?**

Victoria Bridge is currently under construction. This phase of the work does not require the bridge to be closed as the construction crews are working on the bridge footing, constructing a pedestrian bridge, and designing and installing falsework to later support the bridge during later phases of construction. The bridge is scheduled to be closed from June 28, 2005, through the early part of February 2006. During that time the deck will be taken off the bridge and will be reconstructed. The total project should be completed by early February 2006. For current updates, please check the city website at [www.RiversideCa.gov](http://www.RiversideCa.gov) or you may call Christina Foster in Public Works at (951) 826-5689.

**b) There are a lot of motor homes parked on the streets. What are the guidelines for parked motor homes?**

The guidelines for motor homes parked on the streets, as enforced by the Parking Division of the Riverside Police Department, are as follows: If unoccupied, they may be parked on the street for no more than 72 hours; if occupied for no more than 5 consecutive days in any one month by a bona fide guest or the owner or occupant of nearby residential property. If you have further questions, you may call Code Compliance at (951) 826-5633.

**Resident #8:**

**Resident sees a problem with the development at Anna Street and Victoria Avenue because there are many violations of code and agreements with neighbors and with the “Victoria Avenue Forever” historic restoration project. Development at Victoria and Anna Street repeatedly violates code agreements, such as putting up advertising signs in the right-of-way. There were traditionally walking lanes in this part of Victoria Avenue and developers have made no provisions for this.**

The area of Victoria Avenue and Anna Street was surveyed, with no temporary signs being found in the public right-of-way. The development at this location does have For Sale signs within the development, however they are in a private development, as allowed by the City’s sign code. There is one sign at the development that is more of a permanent nature, consisting of a decorative lamp-post type of sign. Approval for the sign will be verified with the Planning Department. If you have further questions, you may call Code Compliance at (951) 826-5633.

**Resident #9:**

**There are so many code compliance violations more officers are needed.**

In conjunction with the 2005-06 budget, a part-time Code Compliance Officer program is proposed to be added. Initially, four officers/field technicians will be hired to handle items such as parking, sign and other less technical compliance issues. This will enable full-time Code Compliance personnel to focus on more complex issues.

If you have further questions or concerns, you may call Deputy Public Works Director Siobhan Foster at (951) 826-5568.

**Resident #10:**

**a) Can the parks and pools in the city be made bigger?**

The Park and Recreation Department is continually adding park facilities and improving existing facilities throughout the city. New parks have been added to the park system at an approximate rate of one new park site per year for the last several years. The pace set for such improvements are essentially budget-driven. With additional funding, more could be done.

To enlarge a pool would typically require over a million dollars and three years time to work through the planning, design and construction process. This was essentially the case with Shamel Park pool, Arlington Park pool and Villegas park pool, the three most recently expanded. There are currently plans to add a bulkhead to Sippy Woodhead pool, funded through a Community Development Block Grant, to allow that pool to be used differently, for competitive swimming.

Riverside currently has more pools per 1,000 population than any other city in the Inland Empire and more than most cities in Southern California, including many that are larger than Riverside. Some community members believe there remains a need for more, larger pools. There has been some suggestion from some community members that a larger Olympic-size pool for competitive lap swimming is needed. Such a pool would likely cost upwards of \$3,000,000 to construct. For more information contact Principal Park Planner Bob Johnson at (951) 826-2018.

**b) Riverside needs better medical facilities with more staffing.**

As the City grows the need for additional medical facilities and services are necessary. To address this need the City, County, local hospitals and universities are all working in to increase medical services. The City currently in processes to encourage medical office development on the corner of 14th and Market Streets, downtown. The County continues to increase services at the Regional Hospital in Moreno Valley, and the County's Economic Development Agency is working with various non-profit agencies to train people in the health care field. Riverside Community Hospital is completing a major expansion which includes a Cancer Center. California Baptist University is working towards starting nursing program in the next couple of years and UCR in working on a medical school, which would dramatically increase hospitals and clinics needed to support it. For more information, contact Economic Development Director Belinda Graham at (951) 826-5649.

**Resident #11:**

- a) Shamel Park needs to be repaired, especially the restrooms and baseball diamonds. Does the city have a plan to restore them?**

A contract to replace the restroom building, provide a new concession stand and scorekeeper's booth for the ballfield at Shamel Park is currently underway.

The new facilities are expected to be available for public use by early June of this year. The old concession stand will be removed and final work on the parking lot rehabilitation will be completed shortly thereafter. For more information contact Principal Park Planner Bob Johnson at (951) 826-2018.

- b) Speed limit around Victoria Elementary School is dangerous in the morning when the children are arriving at school. What can be done to relieve the problem?**

A review of Victoria Elementary was conducted on 4/12/05, as part of the "Walk Safe Drive Smart" program. Work orders have been issued to replace existing signage with 3M high visibility material signage and add new pavement markings as necessary in conjunction with the WSDS program. If you have further questions you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

Periodic traffic enforcement will be conducted around Victoria Elementary School during the morning hours. Also, the traffic speed board will be placed there periodically as a deterrent. If you have further questions you may call Riverside Police Lt. Pete Esquivel at (951) 351-6059.

**Resident #12:**

- Is there a plan to put more dog parks throughout the city?**

As a part of the Riverwalk project in the La Sierra area, another dog park is being provided near the intersection of Riverwalk Parkway and Pierce Street. This facility should be available for public use as soon as the developer of the housing project completes the installation. For more information contact Principal Park Planner Bob Johnson at (951) 826-2018.

**Resident #13:**

- There is water running on Sedwick. Is a bigger drain pipe going to be put under the street?**

Sedgwick is a minor street with an average daily traffic count of less than 1,500 vehicles. Construction of a storm drain crossing under Sedgwick Avenue will require raising the grade of the street and reshaping the roadway profile at a significant cost. Currently, there are no plans for such work. If you have further questions you may call Principal Engineer Philip Hannawi at (951) 826-5706.

**Resident #14:**

**Traffic on Victoria Avenue is heavy and people drive too fast. What can be done to relieve the problem? The problem is especially bad at Victoria Avenue and Lincoln Avenue, where traffic just blows through the four-way stop.**

Public Works Traffic Division will request Police enforcement along Victoria Avenue. If you have further questions you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

The Traffic Division has assigned motor officers to this list location. They will continue to conduct enforcement action as time permits. If you have further questions you may contact Riverside Police Lt. Ken Carpenter at (951) 351-6249.

**Resident #15:**

**Can a signal be put in at Central Avenue and Rumsey Drive?**

A traffic study was done at the intersection of Central Ave./Rumsey Drive and it was determined that the minimum requirements for a traffic signal at Central Ave./Rumsey have not been met by current conditions. If you have further questions you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

**Resident #16:**

**Is there any plan to connect Central Avenue to Canyon Crest between Central Avenue and Fairview Avenue?**

No. The Central Avenue connection between Alessandro and Chicago was removed from the City's General Plan in the mid-1990s. During the recent update of the General Plan, the City Council decided not to place the Central Avenue connection back on the General Plan. Therefore, the City does not intend to build that connection. If you have further questions you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

**Resident #17:**

**Washington Avenue needs to be repaved between Victoria Avenue and Bradley. When will it be done?**

Washington Avenue repaving is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2006-07. If you have further information you may call Principal Engineer Philip Hannawi at (951) 826-5706.

**Resident #18:**

**Are there any plans to have Fairview Avenue push through to Chicago Avenue? This would be disastrous for our neighborhood.**

No. The Central Avenue connection between Alessandro and Chicago was removed from the City's General Plan in the mid-1990s. During the recent update of the General Plan,

the City Council decided not to place the Central Avenue connection back on the General Plan. Therefore, the City does not intend to build that connection.

**Resident #19:**

**Neighbors don't keep their properties clean, junky vehicles in the yard and possibly multiple families living in the home. How to handle this?**

These concerns as described are violations of the Riverside Municipal Code and enforced for correction by the Code Compliance Division of the Public Works Department. The division may be contacted by calling (951) 826-5633 or by e-mailing them at [www.riversideca.gov/pworks/codecomp/code-violation-complaint-form.htm](http://www.riversideca.gov/pworks/codecomp/code-violation-complaint-form.htm) as accessed by the city's website at [www.riversideca.gov](http://www.riversideca.gov).

**Responses online:**

Find responses to this and other recent Mayor's Night Out community meetings on the Internet at: [www.riversideca.gov/mayor/nightout.htm](http://www.riversideca.gov/mayor/nightout.htm)